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**THE MEXICAN LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY, LIMITED**

(COMPANIA MEXICANA DE LUZ Y FUERZA MOTRIZ, S. A.)

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MEXICO 1, D. F.

August 24, 1950

**AIR MAIL**

Purely Personal

Dear Dannie:

H. 5507

REC'D: 28/8/50						
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REPL: /						
FILE: Messersmith						

I cannot tell you how delighted I was to get your telegram yesterday that you are planning to return on Sunday, September 10, and be in New York that evening. Completely aside from the possibility that this gives us to talk over many things, I am looking forward very much to seeing you.

You will recall from previous letters that I am leaving here on September 7 by air for New York, and Maryssael on September 8, and that we had planned to go by train from New York to Toronto on the evening of September 10. In view of the probability that you will be arriving in New York on the evening of September 10, and as you may not wish to make a trip to Toronto immediately on your return, and as there are so many things in connection with the Toronto meetings we would like to discuss with you, I have told Graydon and Lorié that Maryssael and I will not leave until the late afternoon or evening of September 11 for Toronto, either by air or train, or at the very latest on the morning of September 12 by air. We cannot delay the departure for Toronto beyond the morning of September 12 by air, as there is so much preparatory work to be done there before the meetings.

I also want to tell you that Maryssael and I have been talking over the situation we have to face in the next few months here, and we have come to the conclusion that much as he wants to and should make this brief trip to Belgium and to get a bit of rest and change as well, which latter consideration is very important, it is not feasible that he make this trip to Belgium at the time contemplated, but that he will have to postpone it by a month or perhaps as much as six weeks. We came to this decision regretfully, but it seemed to be the only one to make.

D. N. Heineman, Esquire,  
Sofina,  
38, rue de Naples,  
Brussels, Belgium.

Mr. Heineman

- 2 -

You will recall from my previous letters that he had planned to sail from New York on September 21 and return to Mexico by the end of October. Our affairs here are developing normally and on the whole I think quite satisfactorily, but we have this construction program before us, which, with its many details, technical and practical, and especially in view of the world situation which has so many repercussions, is not an easy one. We are getting on adequately with Lecheña, which is so urgent, and so far as that project is concerned, it would not interfere with Maryssael being away on this trip to Belgium during the time contemplated. On the other hand, the Patla project, which has so many technical and practical aspects, must be started before he goes away--that is, actually work at site. I need not enter into the technical and practical problems in connection with the Patla tunnel, which I think have been resolved, but you know how important these problems were. The actual drawing up of the specifications and contracts for the Patla tunnel before they can be submitted to the contractors for bids has been occupying us constantly, but as you know, it is the biggest single piece of work and the most difficult one we have to do in connection with the whole construction program. The actual working out of the specifications and contract has proved to be extraordinarily time-consuming and difficult and we are just on the point of being able next week (and this is still a hope) of submitting the specifications and contract to the bidders. They will have to have at least three weeks, and I believe a month, in order to prepare their bids. It would be useless to think that even with the most carefully drawn up specifications and contract submitted to them, that the contractors who wish to bid will not have many questions which will arise in their study and formulation of their bid. It would be a great disadvantage for us here if Maryssael is away during that period, and it would inevitably delay the awarding of the contract for the tunnel, as well as delaying work at site.

The foregoing is the principal consideration and the controlling one which has led Maryssael to the conclusion that he cannot make the trip to Belgium until sometime later. When it was originally planned that he sail on September 21, we had thought that before we both left for Toronto, the contract for the Patla tunnel would have been awarded. With the best will in the world, and accelerating as much as practicable, this has not been possible.

On the other hand, we have not changed the plans for Maryssael and me to leave on September 7 and 8, respectively, for the trip to New York and Toronto, as I believe it is necessary for both of us to make the trip. The reasons for this are so obvious that I do not enter into them, and it will be apparent from the things which we have to discuss and which I covered in a recent letter which I sent to E. A. Graydon in Toronto and of which you have a copy.

Mr. Heineman

- 3 -

Needless to say, I look forward very much to seeing you. I hope that you and the family are all well. Marion is feeling very much better and she continues to take good care of herself.

With all good wishes to you all,

Cordially and faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature, likely of a woman, written in dark ink. The signature is stylized and appears to be a first name followed by a surname, though the exact details are difficult to discern due to the cursive style.

GSM/cbc

cc EAG(T)  
CKW(B)  
ML(NY)